

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended): An electrostatic spindle motor apparatus comprising:
 - a stator, the stator having a first plurality of surface electrodes;
 - a rotor, the rotor having a second plurality of surface electrodes;
 - the first plurality of surface electrodes spaced apart from the second plurality of electrodes to provide capacitive coupling, at least one of the first plurality of surface electrodes and the second plurality of surface electrodes configured to conduct electrical charge;
 - a fluid disposed between a surface of the stator and a facing surface of the rotor, for maintaining said spaced apart orientation of the first plurality of surface electrodes and the second plurality of surface electrodes; and
 - a source configured to provide electrical charge to the at least one of the first plurality of surface electrodes and the second plurality of surface electrodes and to alternate electrical polarity.
2. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rotor is a disc media.
3. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rotor and the stator are spaced apart in a range of approximately one to five microns.
4. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rotor and the stator comprise opposing bearing surfaces.
5. (Original): The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the rotor comprises a herring bone pattern.
6. (Original): The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the stator comprises a herring bone pattern.

7. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rotor is supported at least in part with a ring bearing and a spindle shaft.

8. (Previously Amended): The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the rotor is supported with the fluid.

9. (Original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the fluid has a dielectric constant greater than one.

10. (Original): The apparatus of claim I wherein the rotor is supported at least in part with a nub attached to the stator.

11. (Original): The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the rotor defines a dimple configured to receive an end of the nub.

12. (Original): An electrostatic spindle motor apparatus comprising:

a stator, the stator having a first plurality of surface electrodes and a first fluid dynamic bearing surface;

a rotor, the rotor having a second plurality of surface electrodes and having a second fluid dynamic bearing surface;

the first plurality of surface electrodes spaced apart from the second plurality of electrodes to provide capacitive coupling, at least one of the first plurality of surface electrodes and the second plurality of surface electrodes configured to conduct electrical charge; and

a source configured to provide electrical charge to the at least one of the first plurality of surface electrodes and the second plurality of surface electrodes and to alternate electrical polarity.

13. (Original): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the rotor and the stator are spaced apart in a range of approximately one to five microns.

14. (Original): The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the rotor comprises disc media.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the rotor comprises a herring bone pattern.

16. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the stator comprises a herring bone pattern.

17. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a fluid for the first fluid dynamic bearing surface and the second fluid dynamic bearing surface, the fluid having a dielectric constant greater than one.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended): An electrostatic spindle motor apparatus comprising:

first electrode means for providing alternating electrical charge thereto;

second electrode means spaced apart from the first electrode means for capacitive coupling with the first electrode means to provide electromotive force;

fluid means disposed between the first electrode means and the second electrode means; ~~and~~

means for providing the alternating electrical charge; and

a fluid dynamic bearing surface means which, in combination with the fluid means, maintains a gap between the first electrode means and the second electrode means.

20. (Original): The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the fluid means has a dielectric constant greater than one.